Increase in Bt. Cotton production

1067. SHRI BAUWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bt. Cotton seed has been found suitable for cultivation in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and other States;

(b) if so, what extent and the acreage under cultivation of this cotton seed in different States, during the last three years and this year; and

(c) the extent to which the cotton yield per acre has increased thereby in diferent States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per information provided by different Bt. Cotton growing States, Bt. Cotton seed has been found suitable for cultivation in these States.

(b) The acreage of Bt. Cotton in last three years was as under:

(Area in acres)

States	Kharif-2002	Kharif-2003	Kharif-2004
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157
Maharashtra	30,699	54,000	3,99,000
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764
Tamil Nadu	925	19,000	29,640
TOTAL	72,682	2,30,000	12,13,359

Area under Bt. Cotton crop during kharif-2005 in all States is under compilation.

(c) As per information provided by different states, the increase in yield of Bt. Cotton varies from 15-30%.

Seed trials of Salinger Cotton of Monsanto

1068. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given sanction for the seed trial of Salinger Cotton of Monsanto;

(b) the number of applications for seed trails pending with Government as on 1st October, 2005;

(c) the areas selected for genetically modified seed trials;

(d) whether Government have prepared any report on Bt. Cotton, so far; and

(e) the area under this cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of the trials of Salinger Cotton seed of Monsanto. As per the information provided by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, no application from M/s Monsanto for trial of Salinger Cotton seed is pending with them.

(c) Depending upon the intended use and introduction into the given agro-climatic condition, the suitable agro-climatic areas are selected for genetically modified seed trials.

(d) and (e) The Government has prepared a report on a area under cultivation of Bt. Cotton which is as under:—

States	Kharif-2002	Kharif-2003	Kharif-2004
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157
Maharashtra	30,699	54,000	3,99,000
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764
Tamil Nadu	925	19,000	29,640
TOTAL	72,682	2,30,000	12,13,359

Refusing delivery of sugarcane to mills by farmers in Maharashtra

1069. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugarcane growers in many districts of Maharashtra are refusing to deliver their sugarcane to cooperative sugar factories since these factories under instruction from Government of Maharashtra, are offering to pay a very low prices for the sugarcane; and